

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 OMB-01 OPR-01 /059 W

----- 118538

O 070645Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 905

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15185

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SAIGON REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO
DTD 7 DEC 74

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0356

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI MOPS VS

SUBJECT: DRAMATIC UPSURGE IN ENEMY INITIATED INCIS IN MR4

1. PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE WELL OVER 250 ENEMY INITIATED INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN GVN MR4 WITHIN LAST 48 HOURS. BULK OF ACTIONS THUS FAR REPORTED HAVE BEEN IN VC MR9 (FORMERLY VC MR3). NORTHERN DELTA OMINOUSLY QUIET, BUT SEVERAL INCIDENTS REPORTED ON QL4 IN DINH TUONG LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING. VINH LONG, VINH BINH, CHUONG THIEN AND KIEN GIANG WERE HARDEST HIT WITH GROUND AND ABF ATTACKS ON DISTRICT TOWNS, VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS, OB'S AND FRIENDLY UNIT POSITIONS. NUMEROUS BUT FEWER INCIDENTS REPORTED FROM BAC LIEU AND PHONG DINH.

2. BECAUSE OF NUMBER AND INTENSITY OF INCIDENTS, WE NOT
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YET ABLE ASSESS FULL EXTENT OR SIGNIFICANCE OF SUDDEN,

UNUSUAL UPSURGE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY. SENIOR 4TH CORPS STAFF OFFICER SUGGESTS POSSIBILITY THAT ATTACKS IN SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL AREAS MAY BE ATTEMPT DIVERT ATTENTION FROM POSSIBLE THRUST BY NVA 5TH DIVISION FROM NORTH. IN THIS REGARD, GENERAL NAM TOLD ME ON DECEMBER 5 THAT HE HAS ORDERED REDEPLOYMENT OF TWO BATTALIONS OF 9TH DIVISION, WHICH HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN SOUTHERN PHONG DINH, TO NORTH IN RESPONSE TO "STRONG INDICATIONS" THAT NVA 5TH IS BEGINNING MOVE INTO KIEN TUONG PROVINCE WITH INTENTION THRUST FURTHER SOUTHWARDS.

3. HAVE ADVISED AMERICANS IN MR4 TO LIMIT SURFACE TRAVEL FOR TIME BEING UNTIL ENEMY ACTIVITY ABATES AND/OR PATTERNS AND SIGNIFICANCE CLARIFIES. URGE EMBASSY SAIGON ADVISE AGAINST WEEKEND TRAVEL ON QL4. ONE OF PATTERNS WHICH SEEMS TO BE EMERGING IS WIDESPREAD ATTACKS ON LOC'S. REPORTS FROM PROVINCE REPS IN NORTHERN AND WESTERN PROVINCES INDICATE THEY EXPECT UPSURGE TO DEVELOP IN THEIR AREAS WITHIN NEXT 24 HOURS.

MCNAMARA

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